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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of all mercies, You continue to provide us with refuge and strength. We don't boast about tomorrow, for no one knows what a day may bring. Lord, we ask You to comfort the victims and families of the deadly Navy Yard shooting, providing them with a peace that the world can't give or take away. Use our Senators today to hasten the time when harmony will dominate discord and hope will triumph over despair.

We also ask Your richest blessings upon our U.S. Capitol Police who daily risk their lives for freedom. Bless also all the members of our armed services. Thank You for giving us these guardians of freedom and servants of liberty.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NAVY YARD SHOOTINGS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Sergeant at Arms is here on the Senate floor. The Republican leader is here.

When I was doing my exercise this morning, I heard there was an incident at the Navy Yard and traffic was tied up. I didn't know what it was. Of course, coming to the Capitol I knew something was up because I saw our police officers with their automatic weapons that they usually don't carry, at least in view of everybody on Constitution Avenue and other places.

I was saddened to hear about the events here in Washington, alluded to in the prayer by the Chaplain, that occurred at the Navy Yard this morning, hearing that a number of people have been injured. I don't know all the details. We know at least there is one dead. I don't know all the details—I don't know a lot of the details of this tragedy or who the perpetrator or perpetrators may be. But according to the reports we have received, several people were killed and several were injured, including a Washington Metropolitan police officer and a military police officer. My sympathies are, of course, with those families who have loved ones who died, with those who have been injured, and my wishes go out to all of those who work in the Navy Yard complex which is a short distance from here and the surrounding neighborhood.

As usual with these events, we have to recognize the first responders who rushed to the scene and their professionalism. I don't know all about it, but I am certain it was there. My thanks go to the brave law enforcement officials who are on the scene and who put their lives on the line. Today we realize that they do put their lives on the line to keep this Capitol complex safe and the city safe.

I urge everyone in the area to follow law enforcement direction for their own safety, whether that be sheltering in place or simply avoiding the Navy Yard area today. The shooters, to my knowledge, have not been apprehended. I have been told they have their fixation on who one of them might be, but we will all continue to follow this situation as it develops.

Based upon this, as I indicated, I have spoken with the Sergeant at Arms, and the Republican leader has been advised of everything I have said and what I am going to suggest. In light of the events at the Navy Yard, we have decided to recess the Senate until tomorrow morning. The vote scheduled for this evening will be rescheduled. We will have an announcement later on the time of those votes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if the majority leader would suspend.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am sorry I didn't do that.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NAVY YARD SHOOTINGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a few observations about the events of the day.

We are all thinking about today's tragic shootings at the Navy Yard, about the victims and their families.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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